GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:154
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2005
SETHUSAMUDRAM PROJECT
Mahajan Shri Y.G.;Varma Shri Ratilal Kalidas

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is launching the Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main objectives of the project;

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred by the Government on this project; and

(e) the time by which said project is likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.154 TO BE ANSWERED ON 3RD AUGUST, 2005 RAISED BY SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA AND SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN REGARDING `SETHUSAMUDRAM PROJECT`.

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) The Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project envisages cutting of a ship channel to connect the Gulf of Mannar and Bay of Bengal through Palk Bay/Palk Strait, so that most of the ships, depending on draft required, moving between east and west coast of India could have a continuous navigable sea route around the Peninsula within India`s own territorial waters. This will save navigable distance upto 424 nautical miles and upto 30 hours of sailing time for ships sailing between the east and the west coast. The commencement of work on this project was inaugurated by the Prime Minister on 2nd July, 2005.

(d) The sanctioned cost of the project is Rs.2427.40 crores.

(e) The work on the project has already commenced and is scheduled to be completed in about three and a half years time.